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Puerto Cortez.—Acting Assistant Surgeon Wailes reports, May 3, that the health of this port and surrounding country is good.

MEXICO.

Sanitary report from Vera Cruz.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *May 3, 1899.*

SIR: * * * The fever situation here remains about the same, but with every indication of an early increase of the disease. I see no danger of the disease being conveyed to any United States Gulf ports by steamer or sailing vessels, as they carry no passengers, and are delayed a sufficient length of time for the disease to make its appearance in case there is any infection.

I think that there is considerable danger from the railroad traffic over the Texas border. Passengers can go from here via Laredo, Tex., to New Orleans in four days without detention or fumigation, (a) provided they swear that they did not come from an infected locality. The veracity of a badly scared fugitive I would seriously question. This I think could be obviated by requiring a certificate from the United States consul or some reliable agent from the place of departure of the passenger stating that the place of departure was in a good sanitary condition, and no infectious or contagious diseases were prevalent in that locality, and that the bearer of the certificate had been a resident of that locality for at least twenty days previous to departure.

There is constant communication from here to all Mexican Gulf coast towns, and why the fever does not spread over the whole coast is somewhat of a mystery.

There are now 14 cases of fever here—6 in the hospital of San Sebastian and 8 in the city. There were 3 deaths from the disease yesterday, and only 2 for the week ended April 28.

I expect to finish my report from Vera Cruz by May 10, and will then proceed to Tampico. My report will contain a yellow fever mortality table for the past thirty-three years, giving the temperature, humidity, and direction of the winds, also a description and chart of the harbor and city, immigration, emigration, movement of vessels, sanitary laws, quarantine regulations, railroad connections, and my own observations and comments upon the possible infection of American ports from here. * * *

Respectfully, yours,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Yellow fever epidemic.

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, *May 12, 1899.*

SIR: For the week ended May 10 there were 22 deaths reported here in Vera Cruz from yellow fever, and 69 deaths from all causes.

From the quarantine physician I learn that there are at present 54 known cases in the city. This number I think too small by half. Nine new cases were reported yesterday.

There has been no sickness in the shipping. The temperature has

(a) All passengers are inspected at Laredo before entrance into Texas by United States Marine-Hospital Service Sanitary Inspector.